



*Spires* July 2023

# Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



**From your priest July 2023**

We begin July with beautiful new carpeting in the sanctuary and will end July with new carpet tiles installed in the hallway and outside the main office as well. This was made possible with a generous gift from Carol Culp, who among many other things, was the long time head of the altar guild. Carol spent countless hours serving God at the altar in the church. She worked tirelessly and with great detail to make sure God's house was prepared and kept with reverence and dignity. In addition to the carpeting, Carol left a legacy pledge gift for 10 years meaning that Church of the Ascension can include in its budget for the next 10 years Carol's annual stewardship pledge. She also left money to our two restricted endowments. Carol certainly gave abundantly of herself to the church while in this world and made sure in her estate planning that the church would continue to benefit from her generosity after she entered into eternity. I invite each of you to prayerfully consider including Church of the Ascension in your will and estate planning as we prepare to celebrate 150 years in 2025 and look toward the next 50 years of ministry.



## 8:00AM OUTDOOR SERVICE

8am Holy Eucharist will be in the West Garden in July, and August, weather permitting and 65° by 8am. **Please bring your own chair if possible**

## INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

The entire service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on

The Church of the Ascension Facebook page

[facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/](https://facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/),

and at [www.ascension-lakewood.org/](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org/).

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



## July Message from the Senior Warden

July. Just can't be. Summer has barely begun, and it is flying by.

When you visit church these next couple of months you will see that Church of the Ascension is having new carpeting installed in the hallway and the church. Yes, the faded red-carpet eyesore in the church is thankfully on its way out. And the stained dirty office hallway carpeting will be gone too.

I know what you are thinking right now. I think the same thing..... "But, Susan, how can this be? You are always telling us vehemently that there is no money in the budget for anything extra....." And believe me there is no money for anything extra. So, let's talk about this and clarify Ascension's budgeting process.

The church budget has basically three components. The first is the regular church budget which our/your pledge(s) cover. It provides for our full-time priest, pays the electric bill, and our insurance premiums as well as those other things that are considered regular maintenance.

Then the second part of our finances are what are labeled restricted funds. These funds are not a part of our budget. These funds pay for expenses beyond our ordinary expenses: the furnace acts up, a pipe bursts, a tree needs to be removed or trimmed, exterior doors that need to be replaced because they are rotting and no longer latch correctly. These expenses come from restricted funds and cannot be spent unless the vestry votes on the expense with recommendations from the finance committee.

These restricted funds consist of deposits from gifts that are specified by parishioners, capital fund drives, specified fund raisers and legacy donations from parishioners who have passed away. Restricted funds are not financed by our pledges in any way. So, when those restricted funds are gone, we must develop a strategy to rebuild them.

The third part of our church finances are labeled as our endowment funds. These funds are slowly being built up in hopes that someday they will provide interest income for the church. Endowment funds cannot be spent at all. Again, pledges are not used to contribute to the endowment funds. Gifts earmarked from parishioners fund the endowment.

Last fall Carol Culp, a long-time church member passed away. She left the church a chunk of money called a legacy gift. It was part of her planned last wishes. A legacy gift usually funds the person's pledge for seven more years. This allows Ascension to adjust to an ever-changing pledge base without immediately suffering from a pledge loss upon someone's death. The remainder of the money is distributed as the parishioner has requested. In this case, as Carol Culp requested.

We are blessed by this legacy gift from Carol because the money she left to the church is helping to stabilize our pledges for the future, pay for the carpeting, rebuild our restricted fund base, and help fund our endowment. In conclusion, this is how we can move ahead on replacing our thirty-year-old carpet. The new carpeting was essentially donated as a gift to the church by a church member.

If you haven't already, please consider planning a legacy gift to church as part of your last wishes or estate. It is just another pathway to stabilizing the Church of the Ascension financially, protecting it from changes in the future.

Thank you to all of you for your pledges. For the first time in many years, we are not dependent on Diocesan funds.

Thank you, Carol, for all the gifts, time and treasures you have used to fortify our beloved Ascension.

We are thankful and prayerful for all the gifts that are given by all of us to Church of the Ascension.

Walking with you in faith, Susan O'Donnell

# A RELEVATION IN LAKEWOOD by The Rev'd Nicky Skipworth



Just as I promised Fr Vincent, I'm sat on the flight to Dublin considering how to condense the most incredible 30 days into a few hundred words.

First, though, my heart goes out to everyone who made my stay possible, no matter whether we spoke, exchanged a friendly look or spent time together for any reason. There are so many of you with Church of the Ascension I want to name, but I'm afraid I might miss someone out! I will simply say thank you, sincerely, to Fr Vincent whose willingness to have this raving extrovert under his lovely, art filled roof was an important part of my experience. I cherish our conversations and really think that he been on vacation as intended, I would have been lonely.

My aim for the middle of my sabbatical was to do something adventurous, even outlandish; some have said I'm brave, but as my husband Martin would tell you, I had to do it. Without going into unnecessary detail, it's what I desperately need right now. I also rather fancied doing something familiar in an unfamiliar place.

As it happened, Ascension became very familiar indeed. Indeed, after 22 years in ministry, I was starting to wonder whether it was possible to still be surprised, to be truly unsettled. Well, you have all given me the chance to feel this, while also making me feel safe. I love the way you love one another, and how you love the Lord. Keep on doing this, to God's glory. Carry not just the Cross but also the Incarnation, Ministry, Resurrection and, not forgetting, the Ascension of Christ in your whole self. Let us be the bearers of God together, albeit in different parts of the Anglican Communion. But what is the Atlantic when we have prayer...and Facebook!!!

On the subject of Ascension, what have I learned from you about it? If you recall my Spires article earlier this year, you'll know I've already done a lot of thinking about it. I value it as part of the Resurrection narrative because just as the disciples get cosy looking up to Heaven, they are called upon by an angel to get their noses down and hurry to Jerusalem. For me, it means I am constantly called to refocus on people and wider Creation who, along with me, bear the image and likeness of God. We do so, not only on the mountain top where the air is thin and few people inhabit, but in the valley as well. In fact, I think mostly in the valley. The valley where there is, yes, the shadow of death, but also life in all its fullness and everything in between.

I'll admit that my four or so weeks with you all has felt like a bit of a personal mountain top only, happily, with an unbiblically large number of people to keep me company! The air hasn't been terribly thin, but thick with the fragrance of friendship, kindness, Peonies, Roses, Hospitality, fresh plasterwork and that lovely, new church carpet! Let's forget the smoke wafting over Lake Erie for now.

But my time in Lakewood began at Centering Space, in the company of Sr Carol, Betsy and their small team. This gorgeous house put up with me for the first week or so and was truly a piece of Heaven on Earth. And why shouldn't it be? For Ascension is about the things of Heaven breaking forth upon the Earth. Within the generous economy of God, where God seems to reinvent their divine presence to keep us from loneliness, nothing can ever be the same again.

Sat here, tears in my eyes (again) and snuggled in the beautiful Shawl you presented to me on Sunday, I know this to be true. Thank you so very much for being my 'angel unaware' on the mountain top and in the valley, calling me to refocus and walk forward into my future without shame and whatever else I must leave behind.

I hope, most sincerely, to return next year with my family. If you think I'm trouble....

In Jesus,  
Rev. Nicky xx

## FROM CLARKE MORTENSEN



At the beginning of June, we celebrated Trinity Sunday. Every year I always go back and watch a humorous video entitled “Saint Patrick’s Bad Analogies,” in which a cartoon Saint Patrick attempts to explain to two Irish peasants the concept of the Trinity—except he keeps stumbling into heresies at every turn. The supposedly uneducated peasants keep calling him out until he’s forced to admit that the Trinity is a mystery we can’t explain with simple analogies or logic.

I used to be the kind of person who needed very clear and certain doctrinal beliefs in order to feel secure in my faith. The Trinity is a minefield for this kind of thinking! Accepting that there are some things that can’t be understood by drawing a handy diagram is part of leaning into the “great mystery of faith.” This doesn’t mean we can turn off our brains and stop thinking about those things; it just means that wrestling with big

theological questions will often be its own reward.

How can you grapple with and appreciate the mystery of our faith this month?

## FROM THE ARCHIVIST OF CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



For those of you who might not know me, my name is Greg Sent. I have been part of Ascension since my birth and baptism in 1975, which happens to have been the year of our church’s 100th anniversary. I was an acolyte for years, confirmed here, married in front of the same altar as my parents and now am a member of vestry. I am also the chair of the 150th anniversary committee for Ascension in 2025. We are already planning events for an entire year of celebration and will have a great array of activities so there will be something for everyone.

I have been given the wonderful honor of becoming the archivist for our church. I have spent months organizing photos, digitizing old documents, reading minutes and learning about our marvelous history. I was for many years vice president and on the board for the Lakewood Historical Society and take with that experience a knowledge of Lakewood’s old, original families, which connects so nicely to our church’s beginning. To better serve our needs, I also took time to learn the best practices of archiving from a variety of historical organizations including the Lakewood Historical Society.

In future Spires I plan to share much of the highlights of our history. The land, the buildings, the generations of people in our congregation and the various rectors of Ascension will be among the many topics I plan to bring to light.

Gregory Sent  
Church of the Ascension Archivist

## OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are: 9 am – 1:30 pm, Tuesday - Thursday

## AFTERNOON GUILD

Will resume in September

## BIBLE STUDY

Will resume in September

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Will resume in September

## ASCENSION ALERT!

We would like to extend our Christmas Cookie Walk to include items produced by our parishioners.

Think of your talent, be it woodworking, knitting, sewing or baking.

Canning jars of all sizes are needed. If you have any to donate,  
please deliver to the office and label them for Gregory Sent.

## ASCENSION COMMUNITY MEAL

Thank you to everyone who had any part of our community meal.  
They will continue through the summer and I can always use more help.  
I am asking for several things if you would like to help in a different way.

### NEEDS

Any plastic cutlery you are given from a takeout that you won't use.  
This will help the cost of providing it for our clients.

Also, we can always use the plastic grocery bags for our takeout. If you put them in one bag  
and tie it, the bag of bags can be left in either the choir room or the office.

Our toiletry bags contain small soaps, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer and toilet paper. Any  
singular item is welcome as a donation. Even a sandwich baggie with travel sizes of all items too,!!!

Thank you in advance. Margie

## **GARDEN & YARD CLEANUP**

**Saturday, July 1st at 9 am**

- Do you love Ascension's yard and grounds?
- Are you a gardener that just loves gardening?
- Are you frustrated with the way a certain area of our grounds look?
- Are you interested in keeping costs down at church and supplementing your pledge with your talents?

Please come on Saturday July 1st between 9am to about 11am. Bring your garden tools if you have some. If not, the church has tools too. After our huge May clean-up let's "dig in" and clean up our front and west gardens. Let's do it. Any time you can spare is great. After all, we are good stewards of our gifts at Church of the Ascension.

You have soccer games, baseball or golf on Saturday. No worries. . . .call me and come and help work on the grounds when you can. We need your help! Hope to see you Saturday!

Faithfully submitted by Susan O'Donnell

## **ASCENSION NIGHT OUT**

**Wednesday, July 19th at 6:00 PM**

This month we will be going to the Harp, an Irish pub and restaurant. Located at 4408 Detroit Avenue and offers a beautiful patio with a view of Lake Erie.

Join us at 6:00 PM for great food, fellowship and fun.

Please RSVP to Jim in the office at 216-521-8727 or emailing him at [Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org](mailto:Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org). by Tuesday, July 28th.

## **FRANKFURTER FRIDAY**

**July 14th & 28th and August 11th & 25th**

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship on the front lawn

Set-up is at 6:00pm. Grilling from 6:30 – 7:30pm.

## **FAMILY SERVICES**

**Sunday, July 9th at 9:15AM**

Intergenerational Service

We encourage you to wear your pajamas.

**Sunday, July 30th at 10:30AM**

Leadership Sunday

Children participation in leadership roles.

## HOSPITALITY THANK YOU!

We want to thank all the people that have been providing hospitality after the 10:30 am service. We want to say thank you for all the time and effort it takes to prepare, serve, and clean up afterwards. The hospitalities have just been delightful. Thank you to everyone who has shared food with us. With so many new faces participating in hospitality, simple guidelines are published below. Remember we are thankful for any of the food you choose to share with us. Hospitality is a wonderful time to sit with each other and build fellowship over pastry, coffee, and other delicious delights. Rita Rozell has kindly stepped into the role of organizing hospitality. Thank you, Rita! Submitted with gratitude and thanks, Susan O'Donnell

### Hospitality Guidelines

- 1.) Paper goods, garbage supplies, serving dishes are available in the kitchen and narrow cupboard in Ascension Hall
- 2.) Clean-up
  - a. Wash dishes and put away.
  - b. Empty coffee pot and rinse out.
  - c. Combine ALL garbage into large can and close- up bag. Take to dumpster or leave in can with trash lid secured.
  - d. Take leftover food home. Or have a plan for the leftover food you leave at church.
  - e. Wipe off tables.
- 3.) The building will be locked by a church member that has a key.

**Thank you for supporting hospitality.**

## ASCENSION EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2023

### FUN AND MORE FUN PLANNED FOR 2023

**August 27th** - Sunday, Car Show 10am to 2 pm

**September 30th** - Saturday, Pet Blessing 10am

**October 29th** - Sunday, Trunk or Treat, following church

**November 23rd** - Thanksgiving Dinner, following church

**December 3rd** - Sunday AGO Organ Concert 4pm to 6pm

**December 9th** - Saturday, Cookie Walk, 9am to 3pm

**December 10th** - Sunday, Carols and Cocoa, 5pm to 7pm

## OUR ANNUAL CAR SHOW

**Sunday, August 27th**

It is a fundraiser. I have reached out to the community to help us with raffle baskets.

Raffle baskets are a large part of our income along with sales from food.

So far, I have received a beautiful gift basket wrapped and ready to go from

Salvaged Boutique on Madison. Please visit this boutique store on Madison Ave.

They have beautiful, affordable items for your home. Georgetown Restaurant, Angelos Pizza, Beck Center and Drug Mart have also responded to our Car Show plans with generous gift cards.

Maybe you have a favorite business that would be interested in contributing to our Car Show.

Flyers are ready for distribution. Thank you, Bill Rice.

Let's work together to get the word out about Ascension's Car Show. Please help distribute flyers to the community, family, your friends, and neighbors with collectible cars and/or an interest in classic cars.

Sign-up sheets for volunteering will be posted in the beginning of August.

Submitted with hope and faith for Ascension's future, Susan

## LISTENING SESSIONS

To build and deepen relationships in the diocese and with the Bishop and Bishop's staff. Bishop Anne is inviting everyone in the diocese to join her in participating in Listening Sessions this summer. We will be able to have facilitated discussions and table conversations about the vision for the diocese and how the Bishop and her staff can support congregations in living out their missions. We will take the information we learn from these sessions and use it for discussion at Diocesan Convention in

November. [A list of the listening sessions](#) is available on the diocesan website.

Please [RSVP](#) for the session you plan to attend.

**There will be a listening session in Lakewood on Thursday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.  
at St. Peter's, 18001 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107**

## FARM SUPPERS AT BELLWETHER FARM

**August 8th, 9th, 22nd, and 23rd**

Enjoy a farm-to-table meal at Bellwether Farm. There will be four evenings offered that will provide a wonderful supper that has been creatively and freshly prepared. Participants may select which date works best

These events are by [reservation only](#) and are \$40 per person, or \$150 for a reservation of four.

## SUMMER CAMP AT BELLWETHER

Each Bellwether Farm Summer Camp is a small, weeklong camp centered on the beauty of all things great and small. Campers participate in a variety of activities stemming from and connected to our farm, fields, and forests. Activities include animal time with goats, sheep, chickens and more, foraging, creeking, swimming, reading, singing, cooking, hiking, fishing, farming, canoeing, archery, and arts and crafts. Reflection, prayer, and discussion are also incorporated into the day-to-day life of the community. Campers will reside in cabins with up to 8 campers and 2 counselors, organized by age and gender identity. Bathhouses are a short walk away. All meals are farm-to-table and emphasize the connection of our bodies to God's creation.

A Mini Camp is offered to rising 2nd and 3rd graders as a "taste" of weeklong camp. Mini-campers will be integrated into the life of the camp starting Sunday afternoon, and depart on Tuesday evening.

Specialty Camps include all traditional camp activities in addition to a focus on specialty subjects that integrate into the life of Bellwether Farm.

Theater Camp will emphasize the dramatic and spoken word as powerful forms of meaning and self expression. Campers will practice storytelling, poetry, and script reading, as well as other thespian activities. The community will also develop and create a show, culminating in a final performance. This camp is focused on finding meaning in the written word and finding the voice and confidence to express it.

Music and Visual Arts Camp will incorporate choral singing, vocal exercises, percussion instruments, and other musical activities. No experience is required, although if you play an instrument, you will be welcome to bring it. Campers will also participate in creating nature art inspired by the landscape, including weaving, print-making, painting, and collage. This camp is focused on finding fun in musical and artistic community, as well as building understanding, skill, and self expression.

**\*\*If you would like an exception to the listed age ranges (to include a sibling, etc.). [Please contact us](#).\*\***

## SUMMER CAMP DATES AT BELLWETHER

**July 1-2** - Family Camp Weekend (Intergenerational)

**July 9-14** - Traditional Camp + Mini Camp (Rising 2-9th grade)

**July 16-21** - Specialty Camp: Music and Arts (Rising 3-8th grade)

**July 23-28** - Traditional Camp + Mini Camp (Rising 2-9th grade)



# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 am - Yard & Garden Cleanup
2 8 am- Outdoor Service 10:30 am- Service	3	4 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal  <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8
9 8 am- Outdoor Service 9:15 am- Intergenerational Family Service 10:30 am- Service	10	11 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	12	13 5:30 pm - Community Meal	14 6:30 pm Frankfurter Friday (Setup at 6:00 pm)	15
16 8 am- Outdoor Service 10:30 am- Service	17	18 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	19 6 pm - Ascension Night Out at The Harp	20	21	22
23 8 am- Outdoor Service 10:30 am- Service	24 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	25 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	26	27	28 6:30 pm Frankfurter Friday (Setup at 6:00 pm)	29
30 8 am- Outdoor Service 10:30 am- Leadership Family Service	31					

## FINANCIAL OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

**USE YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN THE CODE BELOW**



**Or visit:** [ascension-lakewood.org](http://ascension-lakewood.org) where you can make a one time donation or set up continuing donations. Please join us in helping to keep The Church of the Ascension strong and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

## COLLECTING CLOTHES

Collecting Clothes for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Box is outside the office. Please only clean and lightly worn clothing. Highly needed are seasonal men's and children's items.

## DO YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SPIRES?

Do you have something you would like to see in an upcoming issue of the Spires? Please submit your items by the 18th of the month to [danielvanah16@gmail.com](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)

## JULY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

**July 01:** Andrea Schlosser  
**July 05:** Joe Hildebrandt  
**July 06:** Alivia Welfley  
**July 11:** Nigel Cook  
**July 18:** Javier DeJesus  
**July 19:** Ashland Putnam  
**July 20:** Lauren Dockery  
**July 24:** Matthew Marcella  
**July 26:** Joseph Spada  
**July 30:** Vivian Christ  
**July 31:** Mason Vincent Kidwell



### ANNIVERSARIES

**July 10:** Jennifer & Joseph Spada  
**July 17:** Christine & Owen Jones  
**July 19:** Leah & Alexander DeJesus  
**July 22:** Anna & Noah Sutterisch  
**July 31:** Frances & Rincy Isaacs  
**July 31:** Derek & Mark Lewallen